## What is claimed is:

- 1. A method of identifying an agent effective in modulating Stat3-dependent cell proliferation, said method comprising the steps of:
  - i) incubating TEL/Etv6 with a compound;
  - ii) detecting TEL/Etv6 activity; and
  - iii) determining a compound-induced modulation in the TEL/Etv6 activity relative to when said compound is absent, wherein an alteration of the TEL/Etv6 activity in the presence of the compound is indicative of an agent effective in modulating Stat3- dependent cell proliferation.
- The method according to claim 1, wherein said modulation is inhibition of TEL/Etv6
  activity and said agent is effective in enhancing cytokine-induced inhibition of cell
  proliferation.
- The method according to claim 1, wherein said modulation is activation of TEL/Etv6 activity and said agent is effective in inhibiting proliferation of cells expressing Stat 3, wherein said Stat3 is phosphorylated.
- 4. The method of claim 3, wherein said cell proliferation is independent of ras activity.
- 5. The method of any one of the preceding claims, wherein said cell proliferation is of a melanoma or carcinoma.
- 6. A method for identifying an agent effective in modulating Stat3-dependent cell proliferation, said method comprising the steps of:
  - (i) incubating at least one TEL/Etv6 polypeptide selected from the group consisting of TEL/Etv6, a variant and a fragment thereof, with a binding partner in the presence of a test compound; and
  - (ii) determining whether the presence of a test compound modulates the interaction between said TEL/Etv6 polypeptide and said binding partner relative to when said test compound is absent.
- 7. The method according to claim 6, wherein the variant or fragment of TEL/Etv6 has the ability to bind Stat3.

- 8. The method according to claim 6 or 7 wherein the fragment of TEL/Etv6 is between 50 and 350 amino acids in length.
- 9. The method according to any one of claims 6 to 8, wherein said binding partner is Stat3, a variant or fragment thereof.
- 10. The method of any one of the preceding claims, further comprising confirming that the test compound is a modulator of Stat3-dependent cell proliferation.
- 11. The method according to any one of claims 6 to 10, wherein said TEL/Etv6 polypeptide or the binding partner is labelled with a detectable label, and the other is immobilised on a solid support.
- 12. The method according to any one of the preceding claims wherein the modulation is inhibition of said interaction.
- 13. The method according to claim 12 comprising the step of confirming that the substance inhibits cell proliferation of a cytokine-sensitive cancer.
- 14. The method according to claim 12 or 13, comprising determining whether said test compound inhibits the physical association between TEL/Etv6 and Stat3.
- 15. The method according to any one of claims 6 to 14, said method comprising the steps of:
  - (i) contacting a cell expressing TEL/Etv6, a variant or fragment thereof which has the ability to interact with said binding partner, with a test compound, and
  - (ii) identifying substances which inhibit said interaction in said cell.
- 16. The method according to claim 15, said method comprising:
  - providing a cell capable of expressing the TEL/Etv6 polypeptide and its binding partner and a reporter gene construct,
  - (ii) contacting the cell with a test compound,

- whereby inhibition by the test compound of binding between the TEL/Etv6 polypeptide and the binding partner can be observed as a reduction of reporter gene expression.
- 17. A mammalian cell capable of expressing a TEL/Etv6 polypeptide, its binding partner, and a reporter gene construct, whereby binding between said TEL/Etv6 polypeptide and said binding partner can be observed by reporter gene expression.
- 18. A method of inhibiting Stat3 expressing cancer cell proliferation, said method comprising contacting a cancer cell expressing Stat3 with an effective amount of an activator of TEL in an amount sufficient to inhibit Stat3 activity.
- 19. The method of claim 18, wherein said Stat3 is phosphorylated.
- 20. A method of inhibiting cytokine sensitive cancers, said method comprising contacting a cytokine-sensitive cancer cell with an effective amount of an inhibitor of TEL activity in an amount sufficient to enhance Stat3 activity.
- 21. The method of claim 20, wherein the inhibition of activity is caused by down-regulating TEL/Etv6, or a homologue thereof in the cell.
- 22. The method of claim 21, wherein said down-regulation is caused by RNAi.
- 23. The method of claim 22, wherein said down-regulation is caused by an at least partially double-stranded RNA of between 20 and 25 bps in length, comprising an RNA sequence encoding a portion of TEL/Etv6 or a homologue thereof.
- 24. The method of claim 20, wherein said TEL inhibitor is an antibody or antibody fragment.
- 25. The method according to claim 20 or 24, wherein the inhibition of activity is caused by inhibiting the interaction of TEL/Etv6, or a homologue thereof with a binding partner in the cell.

- 26. The method according to claim 25 wherein the binding partner is Stat3.
- 27. Use of an at least partially double-stranded RNA comprising an RNA sequence encoding TEL/Etv6, a homologue or a fragment thereof, to inhibit cell proliferation of a cytokine-sensitive cancer cell.
- 28. Use of the double-stranded RNA according to in claim 27, wherein said dsRNA is an siRNA duplex of between 20 and 25 bps.
- 29. Use of an inhibitor of TEL/Etv6 activity in the preparation of a medicament for the treatment of a patient suffering from a cytokine-sensitive cancer.
- 30. Use of an activator of TEL/Etv6 activity in the preparation of a medicament for the treatment of a patient suffering from STAT3 expressing cancer.